

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 & 11:00 Traditional in Sanctuary
11:00 spirit.fire in Community Center
9:30 Sunday School

Worship Notes

May 7: Pastor Barb - "Whose Voice Do You Listen To?"
John 10:1-10; Psalm 23
Holy Communion
May 14: Pastor Barb - "Who Can You Trust?"
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Children's Choir
May 21: Pastor Barb- "Love is Transformative"
John 14:15-21
Psalm 66:8-20
Confirmation & Graduation Sunday; Baptism
Combined 11:00 Service in Community Center
May 28: Pastor Rick
"The True Mark of Grace"
Ephesians 1:15-23

Sunday Participation

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>S.S.</u>
Mar. 26	197	79
Apr. 2	220	81
Apr. 9	230	100
Apr. 16	440	

Dreaming Bold Dreams...Praying Bold Prayers

We are Easter people...we serve a risen Savior who is among us, in us and with us! So with Holy week past us and Spring all around us...what is it that we are to do? Dream BIG Dreams and Pray Bold Prayer! Our Breakthrough Prayer Initiative Training helped us to envision God's will breaking through as we stand on Holy Ground and build the kingdom of God. So pastor, how exactly do we do that and what does it look like? Well...I'm so glad you asked! In the past 40 days, people have come into my office and even just outside my office on the sidewalk, there have been prayer circles. Holy places where staff and other people have stood and prayed for God to thunder forth or breakthrough. We are God's people who pray through a time or a situation until God breaks through in

his word, in a situation, in nature, music, or some way that God speaks to and through us. It is important for us to remember, “When we go back to places of spiritual significance, it can help us find our way forward again.” (Mark Batterson, Draw the Circle)

On April 2, 2017 there were approximately 150 people who came into our sanctuary and laid hands on the pews, the altar, the pulpit, the lectern, the baptismal font, the choir loft, the organ and the piano. These spiritual prayer warriors from all over the West Ohio Conference came to pray bold prayers for Faith Community UMC! They even wanted updates because they poured themselves out in prayer. I can say, it touched my very soul. Others expressed the same sense among those gathered that day. It was a holy moment!

I am interested to know how God is speaking to you through your prayer life. Would you please take 15 minutes and let me know what the Holy Spirit has placed on your heart and in your thoughts? I am available by email, text messages, or stop by the church office.

We get not because we ask not and I have not met a person yet who doesn't know how to ask for what they need or desire. If you want to find your voice, you need to hear the voice of God...let's talk!

Prayer Blessings,
10Pastor Barb



Stephen Ministry

What it means to “hold space” for people, plus eight tips on how to do it well. About a year ago I read an entry in Heather Plett's blog with this title. Then I reread it again recently. While she never mentions Stephen Ministry, what she describes in many ways fits the role of a Stephen Minister. There are, however, two big differences. A Stephen Minister does not offer advice. Instead a Stephen Minister listens and asks reflective questions. The other big difference is that we believe that Christ is the caregiver and the Stephen Minister is the caregiver. Plett makes no mention of the role of faith in this equation. She writes about gathering with her siblings to be with their mother in her dying days. While they supported their mother, they, in turn, were

supported by a gifted palliative care nurse, Ann. In the years following Plett's mother's death, she indicated that she often thought about Ann and the important role she played. Not only was she a palliative care nurse; she was also a facilitator, coach, and guide. By offering gentle, nonjudgmental support and guidance, she helped this family walk one of the most difficult journeys of their lives. The work that Ann did can be defined as "holding space."

What does it mean to hold space for someone else? It means that we are willing to walk alongside another person in whatever journey they're on without judging them, making them feel inadequate, trying to fix them, or trying to impact the outcome. When we hold space for other people, we open our hearts, offer unconditional support, and let go of judgment and control.

Sometimes we find ourselves holding space for people while they hold space for others as Ann held space for Plett and her family when they were holding space for their mom. Plett speculates that there are probably others who hold space for Ann as she pursues her challeng-

ing and meaningful work. It's almost impossible to be a strong space holder unless we have others who hold space for us. Even the strongest of us need to know that there is someone with whom we can be vulnerable without fear of being judged.

Holding space as Ann modeled is not always easy because most of us have the human tendency to want to fix people, give them advice, or judge them for not being further along than they are. However, we keep trying to hold space for those we care about. At the same time, hopefully there are others in our lives that we trust to hold space for us.

To truly support others in their own growth, transformation, grief, etc., we can't do it by taking away their power (trying to fix their problems), shaming them (implying that they should know more than they do), or overwhelming them (giving them more information than they are ready for.) We have to be prepared to step to the side so they can make their own choices, offer them unconditional love and support, give gentle guidance when it's needed, and make them feel safe even when they make mistakes.

Holding space is not something that is exclusive to coaches, palliative care nurses, or Stephen Ministers. It is something that ALL of us can do for each other—for our spouses, children, friends, neighbors, and even strangers.

To get started, Plett shares the lessons she learned from Ann and others who have held space for her.

1. Give people permission to trust their own intuition and wisdom.
2. Give people only as much information as they can handle.
3. Don't take away their power.
4. Keep your own ego out of it.
5. Make others feel safe enough to fail.
6. Offer guidance and help with humility and thoughtfulness.
7. Create a container for complex emotions, fear, trauma, etc.
8. Allow others to make different decisions and to have different experiences than you

would. Holding space is not something that we can master overnight. It is a complex practice that evolves as we practice it, and it is unique to each person and each situation. May we be life-long learners in what it means to hold space for another.

Thank you from Virginia

A HUGE thank you to all who helped with the Seder Dinner. There were over 22 people who volunteered from our church and 3 from other churches. This says a lot about our church and our community. You all made an impossible task possible. We all learned so much about the beginnings of our faith and also about the value of working together. May God continue to bless us as we learn, work, and grow together. Thank you all so much.

With the Seder Meal over, I was concerned that we would have few people volunteer to help with the Easter Breakfast but I was wrong. We had plenty of help. So I say another big thank you to those who helped with the Easter Breakfast. Again, we had 20 some volunteers who worked

so willingly. I experienced Christ-like souls at work in our church. Thank you to all who volunteered, some of you a second time in three days. You are appreciated.

A Note from the Sunday School Coordinator

Last month I shared with you our summer plans for our Sunday School. So far we have one volunteer. Please look over the list below and let me know what Bible Character you would like to portray for 15-20 minutes with the children.

June 4- Abraham will be portrayed by Clarence Dinnen

June 11- Jacob by _____

June 18 - Jacob by _____

June 25- Moses by _____

July 2 - Ruth by _____

July 9- David by _____

July 16- Esther by _____

July 23 - Mary by _____

July 30 - Jesus by _____

August 6- Peter by _____

August 13- John the disciple by _____

August 20 - Paul by _____

You will have one or two other teachers in the room to assist and lead an activity related to your character following your portrayal. Please pray about volunteering for one Sunday this summer. See Virginia Pinkerton or call 937- 313-1630 or email at vap1222@att.net.

August 27 will be Kick off for Sunday School and promotion Sunday for those who graduate to a new class. More on this later.

And don't forget Bible School will be held June 19 - 23rd in the mornings. Joyce Smith and Betsy Murray are in charge and are looking for volunteers. Give them a call. Virginia Pinkerton

Showers for Blessings

June 22nd is the date set for the next Showers for Blessings. We have a couple of expectant mothers in the church so save the date of June 22nd in the evening for a couple hours of time together with the moms- to- be. More information in the June newsletter.

United Methodist Women Carnations for Mother's Day

There is still time to purchase carnations on Sunday, April 30 and May 7 in the narthex and community Center. Also available in the office until May 5.

Carnations for Father's Day

Dates of sales are Sundays, May 28, June 4, and June 11, and in the office May 30 thru Friday, June 9. They will be displayed on Father's Day, June 18. Cost per flower is \$1.25. Check payable to United Methodist Women. You may pick up the *flowers you ordered* after the service you attend or in the church office the following week.

Circles:

Lydia – Wed., May 10,
7:30pm in the Parlor

Priscilla – Monday, May 15,
7:00pm

Dorcas – Tuesday, May 16,
1:00pm in the Parlor

United Methodist Men

Attention All Men: Our next meeting will be Monday, May 15 in room #6. Start time is 6:00 pm and a meal will be served. The program will start at 7:00. Come before 7:00 if you only want to attend the program which is a tour of 4 Paws for Ability here

in Xenia. Spouses are invited to attend the tour. We will leave from church at about 6:50 pm. Please call William (Brownie) Brown, 372-7373, if you plan to attend for the meal, so we can plan the quantity of food for the meal. All men are welcome and you can bring a friend. Hope to see you on the 15th.

Passings

John K. Six, brother of Mary Alice Bird and father-in-law of Vicki Six;

Matt Rainey, husband of Marianne Rainey, son-in-law of Donna Sandman, and brother-in-law of Brenda Stover.

Thank You

A special thanks to all who sent cards and prayers, and to Marlene Gifford who does such a good job for all of us. I am also thankful to be a member of FCUM. I miss attending services and seeing the wonderful members of such a caring congregation. Blessings to all. – Lillian Grant

Dear Friends at Faith Community,

Thank you for all your cards, calls, food, good wishes and prayers for my

rotator cuff surgery. I'm doing well, but total recovery will take most of six months. I should be able to attend most worship services and Common Cup, but I will not be able to work. Thanks again – Bill Sykes

Faith Community Pre-school News

Preschool is coming to an end!! Last day will be May 26th. We will have our final field trip to Shawnee Park, where all the kids will get to eat lunch and play.

We are also preparing for our Graduation on Sunday, May 21st at 3:30 p.m. We will have 27 kids graduate this year!!

We are now accepting registrations for the 2017-2018 school year. If you or anyone you know has a child looking for a preschool, please have them contact Michelle Holtvogt at (937)372-8757.

Ham Loaves for Sale

The 2017 Guatemala Mission Team is selling ham loaves to help raise money to build a school in Guatemala. Ham loaves will be sold in packs of 8 for \$12 and will be frozen. Orders will be taken Sunday April 23, April 30, and May 7, as well as at

Common Cup on April 26 and May 3. Payment must be made at time of order. Delivery will be after worship services on May 7 and May 14 or at Common Cup on May 3 or May 10. For more information, contact Val Zimmerman or Joyce Smith.

Flapjack Fundraiser

On April 29th from 8-10 am, the Guatemala Mission team will have a fundraiser at Applebee's in Xenia. Tickets are \$8 per person. For tickets, see Val Zimmerman, Joyce Smith or Ginny McLaugh. Thank you very much.

**Are you ready
to be a Hero?**



**VBS June 19-23,
2017 9:30 – 12:00**

**Come and join the fun
and excitement! Watch
for more information and
details. We are still
looking for workers in all
areas. Contact Betsy**

**Murray or Joyce Smith
for more info.**

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S ANNUAL GARAGE SALE IS SCHEDULED FOR Friday, May 1st and Saturday May 2nd. Many have already responded with items for the garage sale and we are so appreciative of your support. If you are planning on donating significant items, it would be helpful if you would list those items below. Typical items donated are dishes, glassware, pots, pans, electrical items, pictures, games, toys, bikes, clocks, radios, TV's, garden tools, tools, mowers, & etc. Please no clothing, and please make sure electrical items are in working condition or mark otherwise. If you have a garage sale prior to ours and have items left over, call us and we'll arrange to pick up left over items. **Items may be dropped off at the Community Center Thursday, April 30th from 1 to 8 PM, or Friday May 1st from 9 AM -12 Noon. The sale runs from 6 to 9 PM Friday evening and will continue Saturday morning 9 AM to 12 Noon. Pick up of items may be arranged by calling Tim Holly at 708-6934. **Please list major items you plan to donate and put in the offering plate, turn into the church office, or give to John Sherer.****

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE# _____ If pick up needed,
check this box ()

Your support is greatly appreciated!! Proceeds go for UMM missions and projects.